

The United States holds a unique position of trust with both Greece and Turkey, and we must use our influence to work toward a solution that is acceptable and equitable to all of Cyprus's residents. I am pleased that we have made progress in recent years, but we have more to do. We must remain committed to our vision of a Cyprus that is again unified and able to reach its full potential in the international arena.

I also would like to thank my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus, especially Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for addressing this important event.

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TRIBUTE TO RANDALL COLLINS

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**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding academic leader from my district, Randall Collins, Superintendent of Waterford, Connecticut public schools. On July 24, he will be inducted as the 2008–2009 President of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in a ceremony to be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

For the past 18 years, Randy has dedicated his personal and professional life to the children, teachers, and faculty of the Waterford public school system in eastern Connecticut. Prior to joining the Waterford public school system, he was Superintendent of Easthampton, Massachusetts public schools. Over the course of his career, Randy has served as the President of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Co-president of the New England Association of School Superintendents, and has been awarded with numerous accolades including Connecticut's 2002 Superintendent of the Year. Under Randy's leadership, four Waterford schools will also undergo a "green overhaul" to integrate green technologies such as geothermal heating and cooling pumps in the schools' infrastructure.

The AASA is a national association of educational professionals that advocate for improvements in our public education systems as well as for the advancement of children's issues. As President of the AASA, Randy will guide these objectives in a national context. Over the coming year, he will serve as Chairman of the AASA's national convention in San Francisco, travel to Peru to speak with the country's Ministers of Education, and discuss national educational priorities with members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the success of our education systems relies on the strength and passion of our academic leaders. Mr. Collins has exemplified these traits and I remain confident that he will spark the same passion for children's education in his colleagues at the AASA. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing his significant contributions to public education and welcome him as the new AASA President.

RECOGNIZING SFC QUINTON  
EDWARD COURSON, JR.

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Quinton Edward Courson, Jr.

At an awards ceremony held May 16, 2008 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Sergeant First Class Quinton Edward Courson, Jr., a 1990 graduate of Bartow High School, was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his actions during a recent fifteen month tour of duty with the United States Army in Tikrit, Iraq. The medal is added to those previously earned by SFC Courson, which include the Combat Action Badge, Parachute Qualifications Badge, four Army Commendation medals, six Army Achievement medals and numerous service medals awarded for service in Korea, the Sinai Peninsula and two deployments to Iraq while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 82nd Airborne Division.

SFC Courson has served seventeen years in the U.S. Army, four years of which have been outside the United States. Quinn and his two daughters, Whitney and Kortney currently live in Springhill, North Carolina until July 2008, when he is reassigned as an instructor at the Advanced Individual Training School at Fort Lee, Virginia.

The ceremony was attended by his Mother, Debbie Parrish of Alturas, Florida and other family members.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring not only the contributions and accomplishments of SFC Courson, but all the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. America is truly a great place because of those who proudly serve this great Nation.

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INTRODUCTION OF HONOR FLIGHT  
MICHIGAN RESOLUTION

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**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution which honors David and Carole Cameron and the organization they started in Michigan, Honor Flight Michigan.

Sadly our greatest generation is growing older and passing on. Many of those who fought in World War II never have had the chance to see the World War II Memoria erected in their honor. Madam Speaker, approximately two years ago David and his wife Carole Cameron, founded Honor Flight Michigan in order to remedy that.

This non-profit organization seeks to provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for World War II veterans, in order for the veterans to see the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The Cameron's built up the organization by private donations and since its inception it has paid for hundreds veterans from our greatest generation to see the Memorial erected in their honor.

David and Carole Cameron, and everyone associated with Honor Flight Michigan rep-

resent the very definition of patriots. Each year, between April and October, Honor Flight Michigan flies a group of veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II memorial and lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is truly a remarkable experience for not only the veterans but also the volunteers who assist the veterans on the trips.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, David Cameron passed away earlier this year. While I and the organization he founded certainly miss him, his legacy lives on through his family and Honor Flight Michigan. The resolution I am introducing today honors the life of David Cameron and the work he and Carole did to found Honor Flight Michigan. I ask all my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution as a way to pay tribute to the veterans of World War II.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN P.  
SHAFFER

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**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to Mr. John P. Shaffer, who passed away July 21 at the age of 84.

Mr. Shaffer was born April 25, 1924 in Youngstown, the son of John H. and Genevieve Perry Shaffer. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Shaffer proudly served his country with honor. Following the war, he returned home to Niles and soon married Ann M. Bancroft, his wife of 62 years.

Mr. Shaffer retired in 1984 after working 31 years as a supervisor at National Gypsum Co. A lifelong public servant in the city of Niles, he was a city councilman at large for 12 years, and safety director for the city from 1976 to 1980. In 1984 he was elected mayor, a position he held until 1988.

Mr. Shaffer's tenure as mayor is best remembered for aiding the city in its time of need. In 1985, his second year in office, a devastating tornado swept through the city leaving a path of destruction in its wake. Mr. Shaffer's strong leadership helped the city rise from the rubble, providing hope in the face of devastation.

A patriotic American family man, Mr. Shaffer cherished time spent with his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. An avid fisherman and outdoorsman, he enjoyed his retirement to the fullest extent, often retreating to the Florida sunshine during harsh Midwestern winters.

He was a member of the Niles Men's Democratic Club, Loyal Order of Moose, and the Niles American Legion. A man of faith, Mr. Shaffer was a member of St. Stephen Church in Niles, often devoting time to those less fortunate. For much of his life, he was a Eucharistic minister for homebound parishioners.

A man of the highest character, Mr. Shaffer's legacy in the Mahoning Valley will live on through his work, public contributions, and family. John P. Shaffer touched many lives in his lifetime, and he will be greatly missed. I am honored to have represented him.